

REMARKS

This AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111 is filed in reply to the outstanding Office Action of May 28, 2003, and is believed to be fully responsive thereto for reasons set forth below in greater detail.

Responsive to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the citation questioned should apparently be WO98/16928 (the original citation included an extra 1), and a copy thereof is enclosed.

Responsive to paragraph 3 of the Office Action, corrected substitute paragraphs are supplied by this AMENDMENT.

Responsive to paragraphs 5-7, claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 12 and 16-19 have been amended to obviate the rejection under 35 USC 112, to make the claims clearer, and to correct some apparent errors therein, noting that claim 10 is similar to claim 3 and had some words omitted at the end thereof.

Regarding the objection in paragraph 7 to claims 17-19, "medium" has been changed to -- recording medium -- in those claims, and reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection as claims 17-19 are Beuregard type claims which are generally acceptable under U.S. patent practice.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Adler, particularly in view of the distinguishing amendments to each of independent claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19, adding thereto the limitation of previous claim 15.

Adler et al is considered to be somewhat similar to the prior art discussed in the present specification on pages 1 and 2, wherein it is noted on page 2, lines 18-21, while these

prior art methods “can detect alteration being added to some part of image data, it cannot concretely detect and indicate which part of the image data the alteration is added to.”

As noted on page 2, lines 27-30, the present invention “ is not only capable of detecting whether or not alteration being added to contents data but also capable of further detecting which part of the contents data the alteration is added to.”

Adler et al does not disclose or teach this capability at all. The rejection of claim 15 referred to col. 7, ll 50-56, but all this section states is

“VERIFY (PK,I₅) is computed and a check in decision block **805** is made to check whether L₄ is equal to VERIFY (PK,I₅). If so, then the image is authentic at output **807**. Otherwise, the image is not authentic at output **806**.

Accordingly, this text does not support the rejection of the subject matter of claim 15 at all.

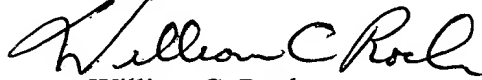
Moreover, reconsideration is also requested of the rejection of the subject matter of claims 4, 11 and 14 which have a limitation “in the case that alteration was added to any of said second image blocks, adjusts said mutually corresponding plurality of unit data values contained in said second image blocks to which alteration was added so that said values do not comply with said certain rule.”

The Examiner’s comments on the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action are noted, and the Examiner is referred to Figures 23-25. The adjustment of the claims is not believed to be in the original data filling operation but in the post extraction processing.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might

expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at
(516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William C. Roch".

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